

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT  
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Attachment 1.2 B

Page 1

State of Maryland

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Under the provisions of Title XIX of the Social Security Law, the state-wide Maryland Medical Assistance Program provides a broad range of medical care services to low income persons and to those with catastrophic illness who are unable to pay for such care. There are two main classifications of needy persons: the indigent and the medically indigent. The indigent classification includes persons who receive public assistance from the Department of Employment and Social Services as well as those individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income grants. All those persons classified as indigent meet the same income test. Indigent persons, except Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries, are enrolled automatically under the Medical Assistance Program. The medically indigent are those who cannot meet the cost of needed medical care but who are self-supporting in other respects. The medically indigent classification includes recipients of Supplemental Security Income payments who are not included in the indigent category. Medically indigent individuals, including all Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries eligible for the Program, must apply to the local departments of Social Services for eligibility determination under established criteria for income and assets in relation to need and size of family.

The Program covers physician services in the office, home, nursing home and hospital, inpatient and outpatient services provided by hospitals, diagnostic and laboratory services, dental care, optical and podiatry services, ambulance services, special treatment services, prescribed drugs and certain medical supplies. Each person enrolled under the Program may select the physician, dentist, optometrist, podiatrist, pharmacy or other provider of his choice.

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State of Maryland

DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH CARE POLICY,  
FINANCE AND REGULATION

The Deputy Secretary is responsible, on behalf of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, for the successful operation of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program. The Deputy Secretary must contribute effective direction to the Medical Care Policy Administration, the Medical Care Compliance Administration, the Medical Care Operations Administration, and the Office of Administrative and Fiscal Services. These administrations are responsible for the administration of the Medical Assistance Program. The overall Program must be continually analyzed and evaluated by the Deputy for effectiveness and efficiency. It is also the responsibility of the Deputy to improve the delivery of Medical Assistance services and to control Program costs.

In addition, The Deputy consults with the Secretary and other Deputy Secretaries for the purposes of establishing comprehensive health care policies for the State of Maryland. He confers with State agencies, the Maryland General Assembly, the Executive Department, and providers of health services and care. Also, the Deputy maintains liaison with the Department of Health and Human Services and Congress regarding national medical care policies and their future effect on the citizens of Maryland.

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MEDICAL CARE POLICY ADMINISTRATION

The Medical Care Policy Administration (MCPA) is charged with maintaining and, where appropriate, modifying the regulations which govern the Medicaid Program in Maryland. The administration's mission is to maximize the health-care services available for indigent and other populations in need by ensuring that programs complement each other in eligibility criteria and services provided. The administration is responsible for the day-to-day management of the programs through which providers furnish services to eligible individuals and for ensuring compliance with federal and State requirements. Regulations regarding individuals' eligibility for services are developed within MCPA along with regulations establishing the conditions that providers must meet to participate in a particular program, the services that are covered, and the payments available. This administration is also responsible for the maintenance of the State Plan.

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MEDICAL CARE OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION

The major functions of the Medical Care Operations Administration (MCOA) are to assure that eligible individuals receive the health-care benefits to which they are entitled and to pay claims submitted by enrolled providers promptly and efficiently. MCOA is responsible for continued federal certification and subsequent enhanced Federal Financial Participation (FFP) of the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS). This Administration develops and implements new programs and cost containment measures as deemed necessary. All data and information system requirements of the Medicaid Program are provided by this Administration.

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MEDICAL CARE COMPLIANCE ADMINISTRATION

The Medical Care Compliance Administration is responsible for the development and implementation of guidelines, standards, and procedures required to assure compliance with federal regulations and the State Plan for the Medical Assistance Program. It provides for the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the quality and quantity of Medical Assistance services provided, and the level of utilization of such services by providers and recipients. This administration operates the Medicaid Quality Control System to assess the cost of eligibility errors and recommends measures to correct the causes of such errors. The design and development of mechanisms to determine reasonable norms or patterns of care appropriate to each type of service provider under the State Plan are the responsibility of this administration, together with continuous surveillance activities to detect abuses by either providers or recipients. In addition, the administration is responsible for the collection and recovery of funds expended for Medical Assistance recipients when a third party, tort, contractual or other liability exists for such services.

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